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THE GREAT YARMOUTH
EDUCATION AUTHORITY.



THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For 1916.

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C. A. CAMPLING, LTD., PRINTERS, NEAR TOWN HALL.
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*To the Members of the Education Authority of
Great Yarmouth.*

TOWN HALL,

GREAT YARMOUTH,

April, 1917.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my ninth Annual Report on the work of School Medical Inspection it is necessary, as in the last Report, to draw attention to its unusual brevity. Owing to the continuation of war conditions, your School Medical Service has for the past two years been working under considerable difficulty, there being no Assistant Medical Officer and, as a consequence, the entire work falling upon me in addition to my Public Health duties. I am pleased to state that the interests of the children have in no way suffered by this. What has, however, necessarily been in abeyance is the collection of the mass of statistics usually to be found in this report. Fortunately the Board of Education, recognising this difficulty, are prepared to accept a condensed report of the following character.

The usual number and classes of children were inspected during the year 1916 at the routine examinations, viz.:—Entrants (all children admitted to school for the first time), 8-year-olds and Leavers (all children over 12 years of age who had not previously been inspected at that age).

The following table gives a classified list : —

TABLE I. A.

AGE.		BOYS.	GIRLS.	TOTAL.
Entrants	5 years	276	269	545
	6 „	179	186	365
	Other ages	18	23	41
Intermediate Group				
	8 years	422	374	796
Leavers	12 years	395	430	825
	13 „	205	233	438
	14 „	9	7	16
		1504	1522	3026
		Entrants.	8 years.	Leavers.
Boys		473	422	609
Girls		478	374	670
		951	796	1279

In addition to the foregoing “code” groups, “special cases” and “re-examinations” were as follows :—

TABLE I. B.

		<i>Special cases.</i>	<i>No. of children re-examined.</i>
Boys	...	471	158
Girls	...	475	149
		<u>946</u>	<u>307</u>

DEFECTS FOUND ON MEDICAL INSPECTION.

These, in general, in no way differed from previous years, being chiefly defective vision, carious teeth, naso-pharyngeal obstruction, discharging ears and deafness.

TABLE II. (abbreviated).

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.				Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.		
Skin	...	{	Malnutrition	...	...	—	44
			Uncleanliness—				
			Head	...	...	—	81
			Body	...	...	—	38
			Ringworm—				
			Head	...	...	10	
			Body	...	...	4	—
			Scabies	...	...	7	—
			Impetigo	...	...	13	—
			Other disease	...	...	3	23
Eye	...	{	Defective vision and squint	...	260	67	
			External eye disease	...	19	20	
Ear	...	{	Defective hearing	...	8	21	
			Ear disease	...	18	3	
Nose and Throat	...	{	Enlarged Tonsils	...	29 (a)	212 (a)	
			Adenoids	...	2	—	
			Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	...	(b)	(b)	
			Defective speech	...	—	8	
Heart and Circulation	...	{	Heart disease—				
			Organic	...	...	11	—
			Functional	...	...	—	33
			Anæmia	...	...	—	—
Lungs	...	{	Pulmonary Tuberculosis—				
			Definite	...	...	—	—
			Suspected	...	...	4	—
			Chronic Bronchitis	...	9	2	
			Other disease	...	...	—	—
Nervous System	...	{	Epilepsy	...	...	—	—
			Chorea	...	...	1	—
			Other disease	...	...	1	3
			Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis				
		{	Glands	...	...	—	3
			Bones and Joints	...	...	—	1
			Other forms	...	...	—	—
			Rickets	...	...	—	37
			Deformities	...	...	10	6
			Other Defects or Diseases	...	42	72	
			Total	...	451	674	

NOTE.—Most of (a) come under (b) also.

FOLLOWING-UP.

Cases found to require treatment are kept under observation in two ways (*a*) by visits of the school nurses to the homes and (*b*) by re-examination by myself in school.

(*a*) The nurses paid a total of 677 visits in this connection in relation to the following children :—

TABLE IV.

DEFECT.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			No Report avail-able.	Number Treated.	Number not treated.	Percentage treated.
	From previous year.	New.	Total.				
Nose & Throat	3	29	32	7	5	20	15
External eye disease	—	5	5	3	1	1	—
Ear disease ...	3	11	14	6	3	5	21
Teeth ...	—	10	10	1	2	7	—
Lungs ...	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
Vision and Squint	89	188	277	22	63	192	22
Miscellaneous	12	19	31	6	10	15	33
	107	263	370	45	84	241	22

(*b*) Re-examinations by myself in the schools is carried out by a card-index system of special cases. The number of children re-examined is given in Table I. B.

THE SCHOOL CLINIC.

This is purely an inspection clinic, no treatment being given. It is primarily intended for the usual purposes of an inspection clinic, viz.: to inspect, and if necessary temporarily exclude from school, children who are suffering from contagious skin diseases or who are on account of a verminous condition unfitted to attend school. To these are added cases of chronic bad attendance claiming illhealth as a reason, and who are not being attended by a doctor.

Practically all the skin diseases are Impetigo, Scabies, Ringworm and Pediculosis, in that order as regard numbers.

The number of children seen at the clinic in 1916 was 946. They paid an average of 2.6 visits each. The number on the list on December 31st was 97.

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

A scheme of treatment by the Education Authority was in contemplation for cases requiring dental, eye and skin treatment. On the outbreak of war this was necessarily abandoned.

Apart from provision being made by the Education Authority, the facilities for treating school children are not very great. The Hospital cannot attend to all of them, and the majority cannot afford a doctor for such things as eye treatment, conservative dental measures, enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and discharging ears.

CONDENSED STATISTICS FOR 1916.

The following figures from the body of this report show at a glance the amount of work carried out :—

Children systematically examined at School	3026
Children examined at the inspection Clinic	946
Children re-examined in School ...	307
	<hr/>
	4279
	<hr/>
Visits paid by children to the Clinic ...	2506
Visits paid by School Nurses to homes ...	677
„ „ „ „ Schools ...	120


In conclusion I wish to thank the Head Teachers for their invaluable help, which in many cases has been given at great inconvenience to themselves during a very trying time of staff depletion.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. N. STEVENS,

School Medical Officer.



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